

Are the Trump administration's recent tariffs an effective strategy to address U.S. trade and border issues?



Honorable Tommy Tuberville
Senator, Alabama, Republican

Sen. Tuberville has served as Alabama's senior senator since 2020 and serves on the following committees: Armed Services; Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; Rules and Administration; and Veterans' Affairs. The following are his remarks delivered on the Senate floor on Feb. 11 when he spoke in support of President Donald Trump's tariff strategy.

"[Donald Trump] campaigned on this platform three times and has been crystal clear on his intentions."

I come to the floor today to talk to you about President [Donald] Trump's tariffs.

The media is in full meltdown. They are in a full meltdown mode after President Trump imposed duties and retaliatory tariffs this week on countries that have basically been ripping the United States of America off, and they have been doing it for decades. Apparently, globalists and Democrats are just fine with other countries imposing tariffs on the United States, but when it comes to President Trump trying to equalize it up, establish a level playing field for domestic producers, well, that is a bridge too far. No one has been paying attention to President Trump. If they have been paying attention to President Trump, they should not remotely be surprised. He campaigned on this platform three times and has been crystal clear on his intentions.

Now he is following through on his campaign promises. But in the corporate media, it seems to still be confused about all these tariffs. So let me spell it out.

President Trump's view on tariffs is as both a negotiating tool to get other countries to do a few things that we asked them to do and a way to boost American manufacturing and put American workers and businesses first, not last. President Trump has his work cut out for him after a disastrous four years for our small businesses and our corporations under the [President Joe] Biden administration. The Biden administration made it clear to our friends and foes alike that the globalist agenda would take precedence over the safety and well-being of the American people. It is mind-boggling. Thankfully, those days are over.

The American people gave President Trump a clear mandate to restore our country's superpower status and put all Americans first, all businesses first, everybody that does something in this country, and that starts, No. 1, with securing our borders. Like I said many times, if you don't have a border, you don't have a country.

And we have really struggled in the last four years. That is changing. That is why the master negotiator-in-chief, President Trump, threatened to impose 25% tariffs on Mexico and Canada in just the last couple of weeks.

Over the last four years, the Mexican government basically turned a blind eye while caravans of illegal aliens overran our borders, coming from Mexico, coming from Central America, all over the world, just overrunning our country. Thousands of women and children were trafficked, raped along the way. Drug cartels made an absolute fortune not just with drugs, by the way, but from payments of these illegals

Continued on page 18

Cons of Tariffs



**Are the Trump administration's recent tariffs
an effective strategy to address U.S. trade and border issues?**

Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senator, Kentucky, Republican

Sen. McConnell is the senior senator from Kentucky and has served in the Senate since 1985. He is the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations and also serves on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and the Committee on Rules and Administration. The following is an editorial published by McConnell on Feb. 12 titled, "Kentuckians can't afford the high cost of Trump's tariffs."



Little under a century ago, an ill-fated law helped spiral the Wall Street crash of 1929 into a worldwide depression. The Smoot-Hawley Tariff encompassed roughly one-quarter of all imports, flaring tensions with U.S. trading partners and halving American imports and exports as a result. Caught in the crosshairs, Americans learned the hard way that trade wars are expensive, and today, we ought to be careful deciding with whom to pick them.

In recent weeks, the president sought to impose sweeping tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China, as well as key imports, such as steel and aluminum. While the administration walked back plans to levy 25% duties on imports from Mexico and Canada, the president's aggressive proposals leave big, lingering concerns for American industry and workers.

Indeed, it's high time for America's closest neighbors to take the crisis at our border seriously. But no matter our best intentions, tariffs are bad policy. As Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), put it: "Tariffs are simply taxes.... Taxing trade will mean less trade and higher prices." So Republicans ought to be clear-eyed about the full, unadulterated impact of tariffs as we work to restore sound fiscal policy to our government.

Blanket tariffs make it more expensive to do business in America, driving up costs for consumers across the board. These aren't just abstract concerns. Broad-based tariffs could have long-term consequences right in our backyard. Consider our state's 75,000 family farms that sell their crops around the globe, or the hard-working Kentuckians who craft 95% of the world's bourbon, or our auto industry that relies on global supply chains to support the livelihoods of thousands of workers in the commonwealth.

In Kentucky, local storeowners are already hearing about their suppliers' prices going up. One estimate suggests the president's tariffs could cost the average Kentuckian up to \$1,200 each year. And it's not just about rising prices here at home. During the last Trump administration, retaliatory tariffs from trade partners set off a broader trade war that hit wide swaths of American industry, from agriculture to manufacturing to aerospace and motor vehicles to distilled spirits. Already, Canada announced retaliatory measures that take direct aim at Kentucky production, targeting products like peanut butter and whiskey. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs are tied up, directly or indirectly, in trade with Canada and Mexico. Our neighbors to the north and south buy over half

**"No matter our
best intentions,
tariffs are
bad policy."**

Continued on page 19

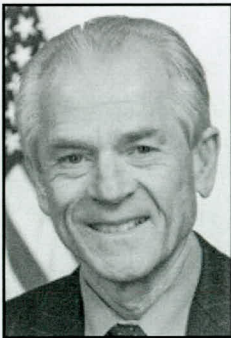
Tuberville,

continued from page 16

coming all the way through either Central America or South America to the United States, with a big “tariff” of their own, charging these people to come to the United States. Lawlessness had become the status quo under President Biden. Nobody cared. The Democrats in this room, they didn’t care. They didn’t care what was going on.

Let’s just let them all come in. Let’s let the drugs come in. We lose 300 people pretty much every few days to illegal drugs in this country with overdoses, but let’s not worry about that. Let’s just worry about controlling our country the way they wanted to. Well, it has been a disaster. Mexico showed zero signs of willingness to negotiate when President Trump took office. When he did take office, on Jan. 20, they woke up real quick. President Trump correctly understands that Mexico’s economy is heavily dependent on the United States of America and the citizens of this country.

In fact, more than 80% of Mexico’s exports come to the United States, and American citizens buy those products that are made in Mexico. Mexico’s economy would almost instantly feel the effects of a 25% tariff, leaving Mexico’s President Claudia Sheinbaum no choice but to come to the negotiating table under the master negotiator, Donald Trump. So that is why he uses his tariffs, to get his point across, because people across the world take us for granted.



Peter Navarro

**White House Senior Counselor
for Trade and Manufacturing**

Navarro is an author and economist who currently serves as the White House senior counselor for trade and manufacturing. He previously served in the White House during President Trump’s first term, working first as the director of the White House National Trade Council and then becoming the director of the new Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy. The following is an editorial published by Navarro on Feb. 28 titled, “Trump tariffs will save American jobs and level the playing field.”

In 2018, President Donald Trump implemented Section 232 tariffs on aluminum and steel to protect American producers from a flood of unfairly priced imports threatening our national security.

The impact of the Trump tariffs was immediate: Century Aluminum, America’s largest producer, restarted idle production lines; Alcoa expanded operations; U.S. aluminum production surged; and a key industry undergirding our national security was reborn. Enter President Joe Biden: He handed out a complex web of exemptions for other countries and alternative trade arrangements that severely weakened the effectiveness of the Trump tariffs. Predictably, imports once again surged, and by 2024, U.S. aluminum capacity utilization had plummeted to a dangerous 52%, with smelters shutting down and American jobs disappearing. Now, President Trump is taking bold action once again. He has raised the aluminum tariff from 10% to 25% while eliminating all country-specific exemptions. This decisive move sends a clear message: The era of unchecked imports undermining American industry is over. The United States will no longer be a dumping ground for heavily subsidized and unfairly traded aluminum.

Predictably, foreign nations are complaining about the new Trump aluminum tariffs.

Continued on page 20

McConnell,
continued from page 17

Pro
& Con

a trillion dollars' worth of our goods and services each year — including nearly \$10 billion in manufactured goods and \$300 million in agricultural exports from Kentucky alone. These economic tailwinds touch virtually every family and every industry.

America's open markets also fuel billions in capital investment from businesses abroad. In Kentucky, over 60% of all counties are home to at least one international business. These are industrial suppliers, auto manufacturers and makers of consumer goods from across the world that support roughly 100,000 jobs in the commonwealth. But these investments don't happen on their own. Foreign businesses choose America because they can count on our commitment to free markets and free enterprise. Sudden shifts to protectionism undermine the certainty these companies rely on to do business in the United States.

That doesn't mean the system is perfect. For the adversaries coordinating to threaten America's security and undermine our interests, economic predation is a weapon. And holding China and other anticompetitive countries accountable for predatory practices that abuse our system should absolutely be an urgent priority. We should continue to push back against unfair competition and shore up critical supply chains.

But preserving the long-term prosperity of American industry and workers requires working with our allies, not against them. Trade wars with our partners hurt working people most. And the president has better tools to protect American workers without forcing our families and businesses to absorb higher costs.

As the president and Republicans work to undo the damage of the last four years, we ought to strengthen our friendships abroad and reinforce our allies as pillars of American prosperity and security. At a time when Americans are tightening their belts, we would do well to avoid policies that heap on the pain.

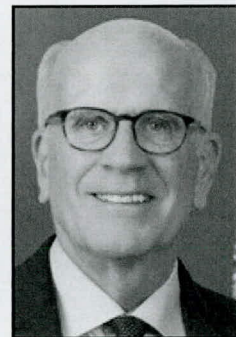
Honorable Peter Welch **Senator, Vermont, Democrat**

Sen. Welch is the junior senator from Vermont and has served in Congress since 2007. He is a member of the following committees: Appropriations; Energy and Natural Resources; and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. The following is an excerpt of his remarks on the Senate floor on March 12 when he spoke against new tariffs proposed by the White House.

Canada is Vermont's largest trading partner. We are not alone.

Thirty-four states count Canada as its largest trading partner. We regard Canada as an independent friend, not as a prospective 51st state. And the reason we have that view toward Canada is because of the incredibly constructive and positive relationships we have had with that wonderful country for years. But with respect to these tariffs, last year, trade with Canada accounted for 35% of Vermont exports and 67% of our imports and 56% of our total trade. One in four businesses in Vermont relies on trade with Canada. Vermont's economy is almost entirely made up of small businesses. They operate on the tightest of margins. Ninety-nine percent of Vermont's businesses, 76,878, are considered small. They support 60% of Vermont employees, that is 156,000, and these businesses cannot afford to absorb a 25% hike on imports from our largest trading partner. Take maple syrup, for example. Vermont produces 51% of the maple syrup

**"Trade wars with
our partners
hurt working
people most."**



Continued on page 21

**“This decisive move
sends a clear
message: The era
of unchecked
imports
undermining
American industry
is over.”**

Navarro,

continued from page 18

Yet, history needs to be our guide because every one of the countries that benefitted from exemptions or alternatives to the tariff abused the privileges America granted them. It's not just strategic competitors like China and Russia that have exploited exemptions and loopholes and flooded the U.S. aluminum market. Nations considered U.S. allies also have been a big part of the problem. Consider Australia. Its heavily subsidized smelters operate below cost, giving them an unfair dumping advantage, while Australia's close ties to China further distort global aluminum trade. Initially, voluntary restraint agreements in lieu of the Trump tariff kept Australian exports in check. However, once Biden took office, exports surged. In 2024, Australian capacity utilization hit 90% even as American capacity utilization plummeted to nearly 50%. As for Canada, with a massive overcapacity of more than 3.3 million metric tons, Canada has historically exported the bulk of its aluminum to the United States. The consequences of Canada's cascade of aluminum have been severe: Alcoa was forced to idle its Intalco smelter in Washington state, and other U.S. smelters have struggled to remain profitable — even as the Canadian arm of Alcoa has prospered. Meanwhile, Alcoa and Rio Tinto, which dominate both Canadian and Australian aluminum markets, have strategically shifted exports to the United States between the two countries to maximize profits. (China is the largest Rio Tinto shareholder.) While Australia and Canada represent frontal assaults on our aluminum markets, Mexico does not have a primary aluminum industry of its own. Yet it has become a critical entry, transshipment and tariff evasion point for foreign aluminum producers looking to bypass U.S. trade restrictions. ... President Trump is now writing a new story for the United States. With one stroke of Trump's pen, the Biden era of idled smelters and declining capacity utilization will come to an end as a golden age of American aluminum production regains its rightful place as a pillar of national security and economic strength. This is far more than a trade battle. It's a fight for the survival of an essential American industry.



Jorge Guajardo

Former Mexican Ambassador to China

Guajardo is a former Mexican ambassador to China and a global risk adviser based in Washington, D.C., who currently serves as a senior director at McLarty Associates, where he provides strategic counsel and expertise on Latin America and China. The following is an op-ed written by Guajardo and published on Jan. 28 titled, “I’ve Negotiated Trade Deals With China. Trump Is Right — We Need Tariffs.”

As China continues to double down on its manufacturing and export capacity, this leverage only grows.

Nations must not sacrifice economic sovereignty and supply-chain security in exchange for cheap consumer goods. Besides the serious national security risks posed by China's control of critical minerals, the United States is already overly dependent on imports from China to produce semiconductors and other core military and infrastructure equipment. Again, the free market offers no solutions to an overdependence on Chinese exports, no path for domestic manufacturers to compete when China has built its economy around overproduction and export. Tariffs will protect industries from unfair competition and create economic conditions that favor local manufactur-

Continued on page 22

consumed in the United States. And by the way, these are small farmers or small land owners. For farmers, it supplements their income in a very difficult margin business when they are having a dairy operation as well. But Vermont's maple syrup industry expects millions of dollars in losses if the tariffs go through.

And that may surprise some, but Vermont imports \$408 million in maple products, primarily maple syrup, from Canada, and we reprocess it and sell it. The four largest maple syrup equipment manufacturers are located in Canada. Tariffs will make it far more expensive for our Vermont sugar producers, maple sugar producers, to buy that equipment.

This is an industry that has grown almost 500% in production over the past 20 years, and we are about to let all of that growth go down the drain with these reckless tariffs. Vermont's maple syrup producers are also concerned that the loss in market share will result in people turning to other products instead of Vermont's liquid gold, with customers possibly turning to far inferior but more affordable products like corn syrup or agave if the price of syrup is too high.

These tariffs will also smash our farmers. Vermont farmers rely on organic grains and seeds and fertilizers that are imported from Canada. In that respect, all of our states on the northern tier are especially connected to potash and grains from Canada. And Trump's tariffs will raise prices on fertilizers, grains, and seeds, on lumber products, and machinery equipment from Canada that Vermont farmers rely on.

And, understandably, Canada, as are other countries that are subject to the Trump tariffs, is imposing retaliatory tariffs on the United States, and that includes, of course, Vermont. That is going to make our sales much more difficult. Nearly half of the farmers polled in February said U.S. agricultural tariffs would result in the decrease in exports.

And, of course, we saw that that happened big time in the first Trump administration, particularly hammering our Midwest grain and soybean farmers. Those markets have not come back. The markets now are for Argentina and Brazil. What is the point of our own government doing something that so hurts our farmers for no benefit for the United States? This was a bad deal for our farmers during the first Trump administration.

And a U.S. Department of Agriculture study from 2022 found that retaliatory tariffs led to a significant reduction in U.S. agricultural exports to the retaliating partners. The study found that export losses from 2018 to 2019 amounted to more than \$27 billion.

And if you remember what happened then is, Trump wanted to get right with the farmers so he took away their market, \$27 billion in sales, and then went to the taxpayer to make up the difference for those farmers. Every farmer I know, they would rather be selling what they grow rather than getting a government Trump subsidy.

The tariffs are also going to hurt consumers. There is no question about that. Grocery prices will be up. The price of eggs is up 19% from the end of the year and could climb to 41% this year. Meanwhile, the president is reposting articles on social media telling people to shut up about the price of eggs. Did he talk about anything else during his campaign? His tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China would directly cost the typical U.S. household over \$1,200 in purchasing power. And people in Vermont, and I know in your state, Mr. President, they are struggling at the end of the month to make that checkbook balance. They can't afford that \$1,200 hit. And some economists are estimating it could be an increase as much as \$3,900 for the average American household.

"Nearly half of the farmers polled in February said U.S. agricultural tariffs would result in the decrease in exports."

Continued on page 23

Guajardo,

continued from page 20

**“Tariffs are not
a saber to be
rattled, nor a
relic of the
protectionist past.
They are a tool
for the future.”**

ers. They are the best tool we have. But just as it is a mistake to place blind faith in the free market, we must also be realistic about what tariffs can and should achieve. For tariffs to be effective, they should be applied thoughtfully, not as a means of coercion but rather as an element of a broader economic strategy. While I agree with imposing tariffs to protect domestic industry, I am less convinced about using them as a cudgel to achieve all diplomatic ends. Trump has threatened 25% tariffs on the United States’ neighbors Mexico and Canada unless they halt the flow of migrants. He has also threatened tariffs against NATO ally Denmark if it doesn’t sell Greenland to the U.S. This sort of tariff-backed brinkmanship will inevitably lead to trade wars among allies, with steep economic and diplomatic costs on all sides. Punitive tariffs that seek to punish allies over policies unrelated to trade — and which are not imposed in concert with protectionist policies to help domestic industries thrive — don’t foster manufacturing and jobs, nor do they help make supply chains more resilient. These are Washington’s two biggest trading partners by far, fellow members of a North American trade agreement, friendly democracies and neighbors with whom the United States needs to work more closely in order to effectively counter China’s export dominance. As a starting point, I recommend that countries, including the U.S., Mexico and Canada, consider working together to roll out targeted tariffs that would take effect in three years, to be imposed on any goods on which our nations are more than 50% dependent on imports from China. This three-year advance notice would allow enough time for North American manufacturers to replace Chinese imports. In tandem with tariffs, governments should implement aggressive industrial policies to incentivize new investments in relevant sectors to help grow domestic production. To be clear, it would be a fool’s errand for any country, including the United States, to attempt to achieve absolute manufacturing self-sufficiency. The United States simply does not have the labor or the resources to make at home everything it imports from China. It must rely on its partners in free trade agreements. The era of unchecked trade liberalization has come at a high cost: shuttered factories, lost jobs and economic dependency in both the U.S. and Mexico.

But this path is not irreversible. By levying tariffs, enacting strategic industrial policy and forming trade blocs that complement their economies, countries can rebuild their industrial capacity, reduce their reliance on China and reclaim control over their economic destinies. Tariffs are not a saber to be rattled, nor a relic of the protectionist past. They are a tool for the future.



Philip K. Bell

President, Steel Manufacturers Association

Bell is president of the Steel Manufacturers Association, which is the largest steel association in America and represents the electric-arc furnace steel industry. The following is an op-ed written by Bell and shared by the White House on March 18 titled, “Trump’s tariffs are saving the American steel industry.”

One of President Donald Trump’s most impactful moves during his first term was applying 25% tariffs on nearly all steel imports. As a result, the American steel industry saw a revival. On March 12, he reinvigorated that action by closing the exemptions

Continued on page 24

Con,
continued from page 21

Pro
& Con

Honorable Bill Foster
Representative, Illinois, Democrat

Rep. Foster represents the 11th Congressional District of Illinois and has served in Congress since 2008. He is a member of the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Science, Space and Technology. The following is an excerpt from his remarks delivered on the floor on March 11 in opposition to tariffs announced by the White House.



Since the beginning of this administration, American businesses, manufacturers and families have been stuck in limbo as the Trump administration has repeatedly threatened, then implemented, then paused, then restarted tariffs, creating uncertainty and instability.

The most recent policy shift to a 25% tariff on goods from Canada and Mexico has been fraught with delays and exemptions, leaving American businesses, manufacturers, and consumers just stuck in limbo, not knowing how to react and how to make their plans. In fact, just this morning, Trump doubled planned tariffs on steel and aluminum from Canada to 50%. Then, a mere couple hours ago, a spokesman from the White House said that the tariffs on Canada were back down to 25%. Who knows?

In true Trump administration fashion, this is complete and utter chaos. Yet, the truth is that these tariffs, no matter if and when they go into full effect, whether it is this week or next month, they will all ultimately have the same result: higher prices for everyday goods and a less competitive U.S. manufacturing sector.

In fact, a business in my district, which makes precision-form steel tubing components, told me that the price of hot-rolled steel is up 33% since Trump's inauguration in anticipation of these tariffs, and there is just no way that they are going to be able to avoid passing these inflationary price increases on to their customers.

According to an analysis from the Yale Budget Lab, if implemented fully, these tariffs would cost the average American family between \$1,600 and \$2,000 a year, with working-class families, who can least afford it, being hit the hardest.

Prices would spike across the board. Electronics, like computers, phones, and TVs, could rise by 11%; clothing, up by 7.5%; cars and auto parts, up by 6%; groceries, up 2% with fresh produce rising nearly 3%. Oil and other energy costs will rise over 1.6%, making it more expensive for families to fill up their gas tanks and heat their homes. Trump is trying to spin these tariffs as something that is solely attacks on foreign companies, but history and macroeconomic facts tell us otherwise. When Trump first imposed tariffs during his first administration, it was not other countries that paid, but it was American consumers and businesses.

Importers passed these cost increases on to their consumers, and domestic producers hiked their own prices in response. This made U.S. manufacturers less competitive worldwide. In fact, in the last administration, Trump's policies put us into a manufacturing recession well before COVID hit.

Beyond hurting hardworking American families, these tariffs threatened the stability of our economy. Analysts from across the political spectrum warned that they could slash 2.3% from GDP by 2026, wiping out a lot of projected growth.

"Importers passed these cost increases on to their consumers, and domestic producers hiked their own prices in response."

Continued on page 25

“The harmful impact of a ton of imported steel sold at the domestic industry’s expense does not depend on whether it comes from an ‘ally’ or ‘adversary’ country.”

and loopholes that had weakened it over time. He was right to do so.

The American steel industry was cutting production, laying off workers and idling facilities because of unfair trade. Domestic steel producers filed a series of trade cases seeking relief from unfairly traded imports.

Countries selling this dumped or subsidized steel in our market included China, South Korea, Taiwan, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, India, Vietnam, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia, Japan, Belgium and France.

Domestic producers must file these cases to compete successfully, but they have become a costly game of Whac-a-Mole. One successful trade case is soon followed by import surges of new products or products from new countries.

The president’s comprehensive response leveled the playing field. The industry’s production and percentage of what could be produced (what’s called its capacity utilization) improved as harmful import volumes fell. Steel companies invested more than \$20 billion to expand and improve their capabilities.

Most importantly, they were able to continue providing reliable, high-wage jobs to the hard-working Americans and the communities that rely on them. And the American economy continued to thrive.

Over time, however, the impact of the tariffs was dramatically weakened. Negotiations and agreements led to complete exemptions for Australia, Canada and Mexico, and partial exemptions in the form of tariff-rate quotas for Japan, the European Union and the United Kingdom. They led to quotas for Argentina, Brazil and South Korea that are no longer effective given changing market conditions. The new agreements allowed millions of tons’ worth of product exclusions, including for products that domestic producers are ready, willing and able to supply. As a result of these modifications, the tariffs have applied to only a small share of total U.S. steel imports for the last several years. Their beneficial impact on the American industry has been significantly eroded. Today, market conditions are once again deteriorating. The intergovernmental Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development projects that global overcapacity will reach 644 million metric tons by 2025, an increase of nearly 100 million metric tons over 2023. China’s steel exports in 2024 reached near-record highs of more than 110 million metric tons, as its domestic demand has collapsed. Prices around the world are falling. This has driven higher U.S. imports from the countries that were exempted from the steel tariffs, even as U.S. demand has softened. U.S. finished steel imports were more than 630,000 metric tons higher in 2024 than in 2023, with Canada, Mexico, South Korea, and Brazil — all exempt from the tariffs — the four largest sources.

The domestic industry’s shipments, in contrast, declined by 3.6%. The American steel industry’s capacity utilization rate has fallen to 75%, well below the 80% minimum target set by the Commerce Department in 2018, and nearly three percentage points lower than it was this time a year ago. The American steel industry, in other words, is going in reverse, primarily because of increasing imports from exempt countries and product exclusions.

With global overcapacity soaring, foreign producers everywhere will take advantage of any gaps in America’s tariffs to find an outlet for their excess steel in the U.S. market.

The harmful impact of a ton of imported steel sold at the domestic industry’s expense does not depend on whether it comes from an “ally” or “adversary” country.

Con,
continued from page 23

Pro
& Con

Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Representative, Ohio, Democrat

Rep. Kaptur is the longest-serving woman in Congress and has represented Ohio's 9th Congressional District since 1983. She is a senior member of the House Committee on Appropriations. Here's what she had to say on the House floor March 10 during a debate over tariffs proposed by President Donald Trump.



Today is the fourth worst day on U.S. financial markets since 2022. It appears the American people are in for a rough ride. Buckle your seat belts.

Prices are rising already, and our financial markets are turbulent in the wrong direction. Economic recession looms ahead. Unemployment is increasing and so is inflation.

It wasn't supposed to be this way. The economic repercussions of the Trump administration's tariffs are far-reaching, and they are biting down already. They threaten to raise prices on everything, including automobiles. I come from an automobile manufacturing center. Increases per car may be \$9,000 to \$12,000 per car. That is unaffordable.

Housing is unaffordable now. Now cars, now other commodities like items that everybody uses like gasoline, lumber, road salt, potash, oil, energy. The U.S. and Canadian economies are interlinked. These tariffs are propelling prices upwards. We don't want them to go that way. We want to stop the rising prices. High tariffs impose undue strain across the board, and they make American consumers and businesses alike miserable. The cost of living is climbing already, and the economic stability many workers have worked so hard to achieve is being undermined, as I speak.

Now, today's news that the stock market took a major nosedive across the board is serious. The Dow is down 900 points, the worst market outcome of this year. But it isn't just this year. If you look back, the plummet that happened today is not pretty. Perhaps the president thinks that putting a pause on tariffs will halt this market crash.

I mean, his proposals have been like this, but I urge this administration to realize it is uncertainty that the market does not like. Manufacturers cannot reinvent supply chains one month at a time. This stop-start, stop-start tariffs and tariffing are producing no benefits for America while already raising prices and crashing workers' 401(k)s.

Look what is happening to people's collective wealth in this country. Close to home where I live, these policies are severely impacting all of the people I represent across the Great Lakes region, the industrial and agricultural heartland.

Trade policy must be targeted carefully, and it should never cause chaos. That is exactly what it is doing, causing chaos. Let me state plainly: Tariffs on our Canadian allies are foolish. The businesses and people of northwest Ohio and all of Ohio and the industrial agricultural Midwest overwhelmingly oppose this careless administration's ill-conceived trade war with Canada.

Canada is our nation's most fair trading partner. Our accounts balance when you look over a 10-year period of time. Our nation should stand for free trade among free people, and that is what our trade with Canada does. Imposing tariffs on North American companies already struggling to compete with penny-wage labor abroad will drive our economy backwards off a cliff. Why would anybody want to do that?

It makes no sense.

**"Our nation
should stand for
free trade among
free people, and
that is what our
trade with
Canada does."**

Copyright of Congressional Digest is the property of Congressional Digest and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.